

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
North Dakota Field Office
99 23rd Avenue W, Suite A
Dickinson, ND 58601**

**Decision Record and Leasing Recommendation
Determination of NEPA Adequacy DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2015-0223-DNA**

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the proposed action as identified in the North Dakota Field Office (NDFO) Oil and Gas Leasing Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2015-0223-DNA, in which one whole lease parcel containing 19.45 federal surveyed mineral acres would be offered for competitive and/or noncompetitive lease issuance at the competitive sale. Competitive leases will be issued for parcels sold at the sale, and noncompetitive lease may be issued for applications filed during the 2 –year period following the sale.

Authorities:

The authority for this decision is contained in 43 CFR 3100.

Compliance and Monitoring:

Should the parcels be developed, monitoring may be required and would be addressed and analyzed under future NEPA documentation.

Terms, Conditions, and Stipulations:

For all parcels, standard terms and conditions, as well as the lease notices and stipulations identified by parcel in Attachment 1 of the DNA, would apply and be attached to the lease parcel.

Plan Conformance and Consistency:

The proposed action has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the following BLM plans and associated Record of Decision(s): North Dakota RMP (April 1988) and its associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the governing land use plan for the NDFO.

Alternatives Considered:

The proposed action is essentially similar to, but not specifically a feature of, the selected alternative analyzed in the referenced EA. This proposed action would offer the parcel within Williams County covering 19.45 federal surveyed mineral acres for competitive and/or noncompetitive lease issuance. The lease parcel number, size, and detailed locations and associated stipulations are listed in Attachment 1 of the DNA. Standard terms and conditions, as well as stipulations identified in Attachment 1, would apply.

Public Comments:

This DNA was made available for a 30-day public comment period which ended on September 23, 2015. 2 written submissions were received during the 30-day comment period. After review and consideration of the comments, some modifications were made to the DNA. Refer to Attachment 3 of the updated DNA for a summary of public participation and changes made to the document.

Rationale for the Decision:

The decision to approve the proposed action is based on the following: 1) consistency with resource management and land use plans; 2) national policy; 3) agency statutory requirements; 4) relevant resource issues; and 5) application of measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

1. The decision is in conformance with the North Dakota RMP (April 1988) and its associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the governing land use plan for the NDFO.
2. It is the policy of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as derived from various laws, including the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended [30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*] and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, to make mineral resources available for disposal and to encourage development of mineral resources to meet national, regional, and local needs.
3. The decision is consistent with all federal, state, and county authorizing actions required for implementation of the Preferred Alternative.
4. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3101.1-3) were added to each parcel as identified by the NDFO to address site specific resource concerns or new information not identified in the planning process.

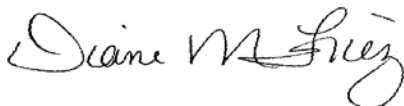
Recommended by:



Loren Wickstrom, Field Manager

Date: 1/08/16

Concurrence by:



Diane M. Friez, District Manager

Date: 1/13/16

Approved by:



Donato J. Judice, Deputy State Director, Division of Energy, Minerals and Realty

Date: